

MONTANA ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

December 2002

UNEMPLOYMENT BY COUNTY

Not seasonally adjusted

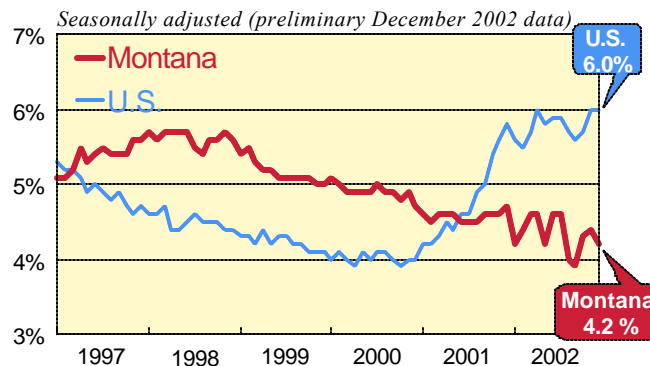
| | Dec. 2001 | Dec. 2002* |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| UNITED STATES | 5.4% | 5.7% |
| MONTANA | 5.1% | 4.7% |
| Cascade ** | 4.5% | 4.4% |
| Missoula ** | 4.2% | 3.8% |
| Yellowstone ** | 3.7% | 3.1% |
| Beaverhead | 3.4% | 4.8% |
| Big Horn | 16.8% | 19.2% |
| Blaine | 5.7% | 6.1% |
| Broadwater | 5.2% | 4.6% |
| Carbon | 6.1% | 4.1% |
| Carter | 2.3% | 1.8% |
| Chouteau | 3.7% | 3.0% |
| Custer | 4.2% | 3.7% |
| Daniels | 2.5% | 3.2% |
| Dawson | 2.6% | 1.8% |
| Deer Lodge | 8.0% | 7.1% |
| Fallon | 2.4% | 3.3% |
| Fergus | 6.1% | 6.7% |
| Flathead | 6.8% | 5.7% |
| Gallatin | 2.8% | 3.6% |
| Garfield | 2.8% | 2.9% |
| Glacier | 12.3% | 10.3% |
| Golden Valley | 5.2% | 5.2% |
| Granite | 9.2% | 5.9% |
| Hill | 3.6% | 3.4% |
| Jefferson | 5.5% | 4.2% |
| Judith Basin | 4.5% | 4.9% |
| Lake | 9.2% | 6.4% |
| Lewis & Clark | 4.6% | 4.5% |
| Liberty | 4.1% | 3.6% |
| Lincoln | 12.6% | 11.8% |
| McCone | 1.7% | 2.5% |
| Madison | 4.6% | 3.9% |
| Meagher | 7.4% | 6.0% |
| Mineral | 9.7% | 9.2% |
| Musselshell | 9.4% | 7.2% |
| Park | 6.8% | 5.5% |
| Petroleum | 1.1% | 4.9% |
| Phillips | 5.2% | 5.3% |
| Pondera | 4.9% | 4.1% |
| Powder River | 2.8% | 3.0% |
| Powell | 4.9% | 11.6% |
| Prairie | 5.9% | 5.7% |
| Ravalli | 5.8% | 5.3% |
| Richland | 4.4% | 4.1% |
| Roosevelt | 7.7% | 6.6% |
| Rosebud | 7.5% | 6.5% |
| Sanders | 9.8% | 7.9% |
| Sheridan | 4.6% | 3.1% |
| Silver Bow | 5.7% | 4.9% |
| Stillwater | 4.0% | 3.1% |
| Sweet Grass | 5.6% | 2.7% |
| Teton | 4.5% | 4.1% |
| Toole | 2.6% | 2.6% |
| Treasure | 3.2% | 5.8% |
| Valley | 3.4% | 2.7% |
| Wheatland | 7.5% | 5.5% |
| Wibaux | 1.5% | 2.3% |

*December 2002 rate preliminary

** Cascade=Great Falls MSA
Missoula=Missoula MSA
Yellowstone=Billings MSA

December 2002 HIGHLIGHTS

Unemployment



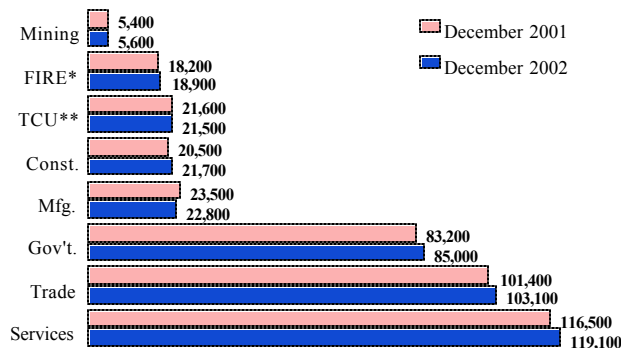
Montana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was lower than the U.S. rate again in December. The state's December unemployment of 4.2 percent was 1.8 percentage points lower than the nation's.

Earnings

Average weekly earnings for Montana's private sector production workers were up 3.5 percent over the year in December, outpacing the 2.4 percent over-the-year increase in U.S. inflation.

Nonag Payroll Employment

Montana Jobs (Seasonally Adjusted)



*Finance/Insurance/Real Estate

**Transportation/Communications/Utilities

Seasonally adjusted, Montana's nonagricultural payroll employment was up about 7,400 jobs (1.9 percentage points) over the year in December. The largest over-the-year gains were in health services and business services.

LATEST MONTANA CENSUS NUMBERS

July 1, 2002 population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau show Montana's population at 909,453—up 7,258, or 0.8 percent, from April 1, 2000.

| | July 1, 2002 Population Estimate | % Change 4/1/2000 to 7/1/2002 |
|-----------|--|-------------------------------------|
| U.S. | 288,368,698 | 2.5% |
| Idaho | 1,341,131 | 3.6% |
| Montana | 909,453 | 0.8% |
| N. Dakota | 634,110 | -1.3% |
| S. Dakota | 761,063 | 0.8% |
| Wash. | 6,068,996 | 3.0% |
| Wyoming | 498,703 | 1.0% |

For more Census information, visit the Montana Census and Economic Information Center website at <http://ceic.commerce.state.mt.us>.

ONLINE AT

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MONTANA JOBS BY INDUSTRY PROJECTED TO 2010

Montana Jobs by Industry - 1990, 2000 & Projected 2010

| Industry | 1990 Annual Average Jobs | 2000 Annual Average Jobs | Projected 2010 Jobs | Average Job Change 2000 to 2010 | 2000 to 2010 Annual Growth Rate |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| TOTAL WAGE AND SALARY JOBS | 303,936 | 395,136 | 465,891 | 7,076 | 1.7% |
| AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND HUNTING | 8,482 | 9,192 | 7,607 | (159) | -1.9% |
| MINING | 6,269 | 4,977 | 5,289 | 31 | 0.6% |
| CONSTRUCTION | 10,350 | 19,699 | 25,761 | 606 | 2.7% |
| MANUFACTURING | 22,111 | 24,710 | 25,751 | 105 | 0.4% |
| TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS & UTILITIES | 20,036 | 22,121 | 25,063 | 299 | 1.3% |
| WHOLESALE TRADE | 15,703 | 18,362 | 21,713 | 335 | 1.7% |
| RETAIL TRADE | 63,131 | 83,600 | 97,868 | 1,427 | 1.6% |
| FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE | 13,077 | 17,880 | 20,132 | 225 | 1.2% |
| OTHER PRIVATE SERVICES | 74,230 | 114,282 | 152,260 | 3,798 | 2.9% |
| GOVERNMENT | 70,547 | 80,313 | 84,445 | 413 | 0.5% |
| SELF-EMPLOYMENT JOBS | 109,082 | 145,373 | 167,125 | 2,175 | 1.4% |
| TOTAL JOBS (Both Wage/Salary & Self-Employment) | 413,018 | 540,509 | 633,014 | 9,251 | 1.6% |

SOURCE: Research & Analysis Bureau, Montana Department of Labor & Industry

- About 93,000 new jobs are projected for Montana between 2000 and 2010—most of them wage and salary.
- This translates to about 9,300 jobs added to Montana's economy per year.
- Most job growth is projected to be in service-producing sectors, with health services and business services leading in job growth.
- The largest job growth in goods-producing industries is projected to be in the construction sector.
- These job projections will be presented in much more detail in the Research and Analysis Bureau's 4th Quarter 2002 *Montana Employment and Labor Force Trends* publication available in print and on the bureau's website in February.

NOTE: Because of uncertainty in predicting the future, these projections should be interpreted as only a general approximation of jobs overall or for a given industry. Average increases projected over 10 years do not apply to a specific year.

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